

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to improve the style of this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the claims, for pointing out discrepancies, and for providing suggestions. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

Claims 7 and 34 have been rejected as being anticipated by Shimizu. Applicant has amended these claims to set forth that the first and second sheet transporting paths transport a sheet downward along an entire length of the respective path. Applicant has reviewed Shimizu, and finds this reference to describe that a document is transported upward on the document transportation pass A and a sheet is transported downward on the transportation pass B. Thus the transported direction of the document, and the transported direction of the sheet are reverse to each other in Shimizu. The present invention on the other hand, and as set forth in amended claims 7 and 34, the document to be scanned, and the sheet to be printed on are transported in the same direction on their respective paths, and the claims specifically set forth that this direction is in the downward direction. Claims 7 and 34 therefore define over Shimizu.

Claim 7 has also been amended to set forth that the first and second sheet transporting paths are nearly parallel to each other. Applicant notes that passes A and B in Shimizu are not parallel to each other, and in particular path B appears to be U-shaped. Therefore Shimizu cannot anticipate the feature that the paths of claim 7 are nearly parallel

to each other. Claim 7 therefore further defines over Shimizu.

The rejection also states that Shimizu has a protection member. The rejection appears to equate the protection member of the present invention with the cover of the scanner 200 in Shimizu. The protection member of the present invention is preferably embodied as the auxiliary rollers 22a that protect the pick rollers from collapsing with the weight of the scanner apparatus. Thus the protection member the present invention is different from the cover of the scanner 200 of Shimizu, this feature further causes the present invention to differ from Shimizu.

Claim 38 is rejected as being anticipated by Obana.

Claim 38 has been amended to include the feature of the base unit and that the second apparatus is a scanner apparatus removably mounted on the base unit. The scanner apparatus is further set forth as being capable of operating as a hand scanner when the scanner apparatus is detached from the base unit. Applicant has reviewed Obana, and finds no teaching nor suggestion of a base unit and a scanner apparatus which is removably mounted and can be implemented as a hand scanner. Claim 38 and its dependent claims therefore define over Obana.

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which would further favorable prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone to discuss possible changes.

At this time Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, and based on the above amendments and remarks, respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

By: 

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56356RCE3.7

Attached: Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.